



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

June 8, 1998

S. 1752

A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain administrative sites and use the proceeds for the acquisition of office sites and the acquisition, construction, or improvement of offices and support buildings for the Coconino National Forest, Kaibab National Forest, Prescott National Forest, and Tonto National Forest in the state of Arizona

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on May 13, 1998*

SUMMARY

S. 1752 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange about 558 acres of administrative sites in the National Forest System and to acquire other administrative facilities through purchase or exchange.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1752 would result in outlay savings of \$4 million in 1999 and about \$11 million over the 1999-2003 period but would have no net effect on federal spending over the 1999-2003 period. Because enacting the bill would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. S. 1752 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1752 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and the environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING						
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	-4	-1	1	3	1

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

S. 1752 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange about 558 acres in several national forests in Arizona that are currently used as administrative sites. The bill would authorize the Secretary either to accept cash equalization payments that exceed 25 percent of the value of the sites or to acquire existing or future administrative facilities and improvements in exchange for the sites. Any proceeds from sale or exchange of the sites would be available for the construction or improvement of offices or other administrative buildings for four national forests in Arizona: Coconino, Kaibab, Prescott, and Tonto.

Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would result in additional offsetting receipts from sale of the federal administrative sites of about \$11 million over the 1999-2003 period. CBO estimates that the Forest Service would spend, without further appropriation, any receipts from a sale of the site to construct or improve other facilities on federal land. Therefore, we estimate that there would be no net effect on direct spending over the 1999-2003 period.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

Section 252 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act sets up pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or receipts. Under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, proceeds from nonroutine asset sales may be counted for purposes of pay-as-you-go scorekeeping only if such sales would entail no net financial cost to the government. Selling these Forest Service administrative sites would not entail a net financial cost; therefore, the proceeds would be counted for pay-as-you-go purposes.

The net changes in outlays that are subject to pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in the following table. For the purposes of enforcing pay-as-you-go procedures, only the effects in the current year, the budget year, and the succeeding four years are counted.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars										
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Changes in outlays	0	-4	-1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Changes in receipts											

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1752 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the UMRA and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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